



New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

Manual:	NJAC	NJ Administrative Code Excerpts	Effective Date:
Title	10	Human Services	
Chapter	127	Manual Of Requirements For Residential Child Care Facilities	3/27/2009
Subchapter:	10	Services For Pregnant And Parenting Adolescents	
Section	6	Services regarding paternal involvement (N.J.A.C. 10:127-10.6)	

§10:127-10.6 Services regarding paternal involvement

(a) The facility shall explain to the adolescent mother:

1. The benefits of establishing paternity for her infant and her options for establishing paternity;
2. How to establish paternity of the infant, including:
 - i. Clarification that naming a father on her infant's birth certificate does not establish paternity unless she is or was married to the infant's father; and
 - ii. Information about the procedures for establishing paternity;
3. How to deal with future questions her infant may have about his or her father;
4. How to manage visitation arrangements between her infant and the infant's father; and
5. That establishing paternity is not a condition for remaining in the facility.

(b) The facility shall discuss the topics specified in (a) above in individual or group meetings with adolescent mothers and assist the adolescent in establishing paternity if she so requests. These individual or group meetings shall be held:

1. Weekly for facilities that discharge the adolescents soon after they deliver; and
2. At least monthly for facilities that continue to provide services to the adolescents and their infants after delivery.

(c) When the infant's father is known and the adolescent mother agrees, the facility shall attempt at least two in-person contacts with him within two months of the adolescent's admission to the facility to discuss his interest in his child.

1. If the father does not respond to initial contacts made by the facility, the facility shall send a certified letter to all known addresses where the father may be residing indicating the facility's interest in discussing his involvement with his child.

2. The facility shall not be obligated to comply with (c)1 above if it documents that the father's involvement would place the adolescent or infant at physical or emotional risk.

(d) The facility shall allow the fathers of infants residing in the facility to attend parenting classes provided by the facility.